

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement and annotated sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to FIGS. 1 as follows.

FIG. 1 has been amended to change the symbol for the second comparator 16.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed September 26, 2005 has been carefully considered.

Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Drawings

On page 2 of the Office action the Examiner stated, "The drawings are objected to because there are two different symbols used to represent comparators." The Applicants have amended the symbol for comparator 16 to overcome this objection.

Abstract and Title

On pages 2-3 of the Office Action the Examiner required amendments to the title and the abstract, and Applicants have made the required amendments.

Claim Objections

On pages 2-3 of the Office Action the Examiner made certain objections to Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 13, 16 and 17. Applicants have appropriately amended Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 13, 16 and 17.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

On pages 4-7 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-8, 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Abe (US pat 6,636,826). The Applicants respectfully traverse this ground for rejection.

Claim 1

In explaining his rejection the Examiner stated, “With respect to claim 1, Abe discloses a device comprising:2) Means for generating test data representative of an estimated orientation of the solid (Fig 3 item 50 and 80).” However, the Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner’s characterization of Abe. In Abe’s Figure 3 his item 50 is a correction definer and his item 80 is a coefficient corrector, and neither of these items generate test data representative of an estimated orientation of the solid. Rather, Abe’s correction definer uses the tentative pitch angle P and the tentative roll angle R from the static angle calculator 405, (Col. 11, ll. 1-3) and the static angle calculator 405 calculates the tentative pitch angle P and the tentative roll angle R based on measured data M_x , M_y , A_x and A_y as shown in Fig. 3. Similarly, as shown in Fig. 3 the coefficient corrector 80 uses the tentative pitch angle P and the tentative roll angle R from the static angle calculator 405. Therefore, Abe does not anticipate Applicants’ claim 1.

Claim 7

In explaining his rejection of Claim 7 the Examiner stated, “With respect to claim 7, Abe discloses that the means for generating test data comprise a calculator for calculating test data as a function of an estimated orientation, and as a function of parameters characteristic of a response of the angular position sensor (column 3 lines 22-30).” The Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner’s characterization Abe. The language of Abe at column 3, lines 22-30 neither teaches nor suggests calculating test data as a function of an estimated orientation and as a function of parameters characteristic of a response of the angular position sensor. Furthermore, Applicants’ Claim 7 recites that the means for generating test data comprises a calculator for calculating test data 1) as a function of an estimated orientation and 2) as a function of parameters characteristic of a response of the angular position sensor. On the other hand, Abe

neither teaches nor suggests that either of these calculations is performed by his correction definer 50 or his coefficient corrector 80. Accordingly, Abe does not anticipate Applicant's claim 7.

On page 6 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected Claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Donahue (US pat 5,526,022). The Applicants respectfully traverse this ground for rejection.

In explaining his rejection the Examiner stated, "With respect to claim 1, Donahue discloses a device comprising: 2) Means for generating test data representative of an estimated orientation of the solid (column 2 lines 56-63)." However, the Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of Donahue. The passage from Donahue does not teach or suggest applicant's claimed "means for generating test data representative of an estimated orientation of the solid."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

On page 7 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected Claims 3, 9-10, 14-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Abe in view of Keeler (US pat 5,682,317). The Applicants respectfully traverse this ground for rejection. As explained above, Abe does not teach or suggest Applicants' claim 1. Therefore since Claims 3 and 9-10 depend from Claim 1 they are patentable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1 is patentable.

Concerning Claim 14 the Examiner explained his rejection as follows: "With respect to claim 14, Abe discloses a method comprising: a) Capture of measuring data originating from at

least one angular position sensor and the establishment of a test datum representative of an estimated orientation of the solid (fig 3 items 401-404).

However, Applicants respectfully disagree. Items 401-404 in Abe's Fig 3 are devices for measuring actual data, not for making estimations. Accordingly Applicants' Claim 14 is not obvious.

New Claims 19 and 20

Applicants have added new claims 19 and 20 and take this opportunity to address the patentability of those claims.

New Claim 19 recites that the means for generating test data can generate test data which is random. Basis for these claims is e.g. at page 10, lines 10-12. Similarly, new Claim 20 recites that the test datum can be random. In contrast to these claims, none of the cited references teaches or suggests the use of test data which can be random. Therefore these new claims are patentable in view of the cited art.

Conclusion

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

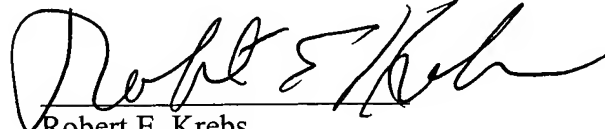
Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 27 Feb. 2006


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